

THE WHITE HOUSE

OUTGOING MESSAGE



WHASA

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE
PRECEDENCE

19 SEPT 1962
DATE

FROM:

TO: **CAPT. SHEPHERD EYES ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT**

INFO:

CITE: _____

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--19 SEPTEMBER 1962

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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--19 SEPTEMBER 1962

LATE ITEM

ARGENTINA:

A. THERE WAS A NEW OUTBREAK OF OPEN FEUDING BY MILITARY FACTIONS LAST NIGHT, RESULTING IN MUTINY BY THE COMMANDERS OF SEVERAL MAJOR ARMY UNITS [REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED] BUT THERE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN NO FIGHTING SO FAR.

50X1

B. AS BEST WE CAN RECONSTRUCT THIS MORNING, PRESIDENT GUIDO'S DECISION TO DELAY ELECTIONS UNTIL OCTOBER 1963-- TAKEN TO PLACATE THE AUTHORITARIAN MILITARY FACTION--ENCOURAGED THAT GROUP TO ATTEMPT THE OUSTER OF KEY OFFICERS IN THE OPPOSING "LEGALIST" FACTION. YESTERDAY, WAR MINISTER CORNEJO SARAVIA RELIEVED THREE COMMANDERS OF GARRISONS NEAR BUENOS AIRES.

C. THESE COMMANDERS, LED BY GENERAL ONGANIA, REFUSED TO ACCEPT THEIR DISMISSAL. THEY APPARENTLY HAVE THE BACKING OF THEIR TROOPS AND CLAIM THE SUPPORT OF SEVERAL GARRISONS IN THE INTERIOR. ONGANIA HAS ESTABLISHED HEADQUARTERS IN THE LARGE CAMPO DE MAYO GARRISON OUTSIDE BUENOS AIRES AND DECLARED HIMSELF COMMANDER OF THE ARMY.

D. ONGANIA HAS CHALLENGED GUIDO TO "CHOOSE BETWEEN DICTATORSHIP AND DEMOCRACY." MEANWHILE, THE AUTHORITARIAN GROUP HAS STATED THAT IT WILL TAKE CAMPO DE MAYO BY FORCE.

50X1

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50X1

1. CUBA:**2. SOUTH VIETNAM:**

A. WE ARE NOW CARRYING THE STRENGTH OF VIET CONG REGULAR UNITS WITHIN SOUTH VIETNAM AT 20 - 22,000, INCLUDING 25 BATTALIONS, AN INCREASE OF 3,000 TROOPS AND FOUR BATTALIONS THIS YEAR.

50X1

B. A "SLOW BUT PERCEPTIBLE TIPPING OF THE BALANCE" OF PRESENT OPINION IN FAVOR OF THE DIEM GOVERNMENT.

3. USSR:

A. SOVIET MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE FAR EAST CONTINUE.

(Cont'd, 50X1

B. FOR MORE THAN A WEEK, LONG RANGE AIR FORCES IN THE WEST HAVE BEEN MUCH LESS ACTIVE THAN USUAL. THIS NORMALLY MEANS THAT A MAJOR EXERCISE IS UPCOMING, BUT THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF IT AS YET.

C. SO MANY EAST GERMAN, POLISH, AND SOVIET TROOPS ARE INVOLVED IN HELPING TO GET THE HARVEST IN THAT WE DOUBT IF MAJOR WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS CAN GET UNDER WAY UNTIL LATER IN THE MONTH. [REDACTED]

50X1

4. COMMUNIST CHINA:

A. THE CHINESE MASS INDIGNATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE US CONTINUES TO BUILD UP.

B. AMBASSADOR CABOT MEETS WANG TOMORROW.

C. THE CHINESE ARE CLOSELY WATCHING THE PATROL OF USS SHELTON ALONG THE COAST NORTH TO TSINGTAO, BUT NO AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

50X2

5. NOTES:

A. USSR: [REDACTED]

50X1

LAST NIGHT

B. BERLIN: AN EXPLOSION/ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE WALL NEAR BRANDENBURG GATE BROUGHT SOVIET TROOPS OUT. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION YET AS TO WHY THEY, NOT THE EAST GERMANS, APPEARED.

50X1

C. ECUADOR: PRESIDENT AROSEMENA HAS MADE A PITCH FOR FORMAL ACCEPTANCE BY PRESIDENT KENNEDY OF AN INVITATION TO VISIT ECUADOR. AMBASSADOR BERNBAUM THINKS AROSEMENA IS AFTER A REAFFIRMATION OF US CONFIDENCE IN ORDER TO SILENCE RIGHTIST CRITICS.

D. CONGO: THERE IS CONFIRMATION THAT FIGHTING IS GOING ON IN NORTH KATANGA, BUT IT MAY BE NO MORE THAN THE SPORADIC SKIRMISHING THAT HAS NEVER REALLY STOPPED.

50X1

50X1

E. SYRIA: A GROUP OF SYRIAN PILOTS AND TECHNICIANS HAS GONE TO THE USSR FOR TRAINING ON THE MIG-21. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS THAT THE SYRIANS WILL GET SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES.

F. FINLAND: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S VISIT TO THE USSR HAS BEEN MOVED UP A WEEK, NOW 3 OCTOBER. THE FINNS ARE STRESSING THAT THE TRIP IS UNOFFICIAL.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~